1984 WINTER OLYMPICS

RESULTS AT SARAJEVO ARE AS FOLLOWS:

BIATHLON 20KM

GOLD	P. ANGERER	FRG	1.11.52.7
SILVER	F.P. ROTSCH	GDR	1.13.21.4
BRONZE	E. KVALFOSS	NOR	1.14.02.4

BOB SLED - 2 MAN

GOLD	W. HOPPE D. SCHAUERHAMMER	GDR-II	3.25.56
SILVER	B. LEGMANN B. MUSIOL	GDR-1	3.26.04
BRONZE	Z. EKMANIS V. ALEKSANDROV	URS-II	3.26.16

DOWNHILL - MEN

GOLD	W. JOHNSON	USA	1.45.59
SILVER	P. MULLER	SUI	1.45.86
BRONZE	A. STEINER	AUT	1.45.95

GIANT SLALOM - MEN

GOLD	M. JULEN	SUI	2.41.18
SILVER	J. FRANCO	YUG	2.41.41
BRONZE	A. WENZEL	LIE	2.41.75

SKI-JUMP - 90 METRES

GOLD	M. MYKANEN	FIN	231.2
SILVER	J. WEISSFLOG	GDR	213.7
BRONZE	P. PLOC	TCH	202.9

SPEED SKATING - (MEN) 1000 METRES

GOLD	G. BOUCHER	CAN	01.15.80
SILVER	S. KHLEBNIKOV	URS	01.16.63
BRONZE	K.A. ENGELSTAD	NOR	01.16.75

WINTER OLYMPIAD 88

With Introduction

by

DAVID VINE

Introduction by David Vine

David Vine is one of the world's leading winter sport commentators and certainly the most travelled. He has been connected with the Winter Olympic Games for the last 20 years and his commentaries are heard throughout the world. His BBC TV programme "Ski Sunday" has just celebrated it's tenth anniversary and it's 100th edition which, incidentally, came from Calgary.

David Vine has kindly taken time out to give us his thoughts of Canada and it's forthcoming Olympics.

"The Modern Olympic Winter Games, as they are officially called, began in 1924 in Chamonix, a French resort now among the most popular for those who "get away from it all" during what can be dull and miserable times before and after Christmas at home. Instead of grey skies and rain, a few weeks of brilliant snow, sunshine, good living and excitement give you a lot to talk about - and boast about - once the reality returns. Since 1924 and the start of it all, the Games have been staged in nine different countries, the United States having been hosts on three occasions, Switzerland, France and Austria twice. Calgary is rightly proud of the fact that on behalf of Canada, they become the tenth nation to welcome the world to what will be the 15th Olympic Winter Games. It has every sign of being quite a welcome!

Canada will be waving the banners and ringing the cow bells for their new young hero, Rob Boyd who takes on established champions like Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland and his team mate Peter Mueller. And we'll be shouting for Britain's Martin Bell who's come so close so often in the past couple of seasons.

Also at Nakiska are the technical events as we call them, those where the slalom experts weave their intricate patterns between a maze of red and blue gates. The Giant Slalom combines the skill of the never ending turns with the speed you need to generate for the downhill - and hopefully you make every turn instead of flying, out of control, into the safety nets or the straw bales.

Away from the alpine you'll find Olympic Park, just on the City boundary. You can't miss it because towering above everything are the giant ski jumps where the bird men perform. Imagine jumping off the top of St. Paul's Cathedral at seventy miles an hour and flying straight over Wembley Stadium from goal mouth to goal mouth. Yes, that's what you do if you're a ski jumper. You also hold your breath - just a little and make sure you look good in the air because judges are marking you for style as well.

Calgary is the home of rodeo, it's famous Stampede attracting 100,000 people a day throughout the 10 days of July when you can't move for bucking broncos, chuckwagon races and pancakes piled high. They expect the same number of people to be there to watch the bucking broncos of the ski slopes, the ever-so-crazy downhillers travelling at over 80 miles an hour down the side of a mountain you couldn't climb up on hands and knees - Nakiska is the purpose built Mount Allen site for all the alpine races, the blue riband events of the Games. It's in the heart of the Eastern Rocky Mountains, about 60 miles along the Trans Canada highway from the city. Over 25 million dollars have been spent to produce a showpiece of snow sport and the Calgarians, complete with white stetsons and cowboy buckles put it quite simply: "No one is going to bum a ride on our course. One mistake and you're out." I believe them. When I was there last winter for the World Cup, I saw a whole collection of the world's most famous downhillers unable to get round the most vicious corner I've seen in eleven years on the slopes. Not only is it like a hairpin but it's sheet ice on top of rock. Good luck.

The most futuristic looking event is the bob sleigh where today the bobs resemble space age bullet cars. The start and the push off is vital - and so is the jump in! The new track is the most advanced ever built with 62 miles of refrigeration pipe incorporated in the run. They'll be able to race even if we get a heat-wave.

An if you want to try something really difficult, the Biathlon is the one for you. You ski for what seems hours over a cross country course carrying a rifle on your back. Suddenly, as you turn a corner, there's a shooting range in front of you. You stop, heart pumping, arms and legs shaking and try to hold the rifle steady and shoot out the targets. And then it's off again, and again, and again. It's like using a sledge hammer for an hour or so and then trying to throw a dart in the bulls eye. Try it.

In the old days of Calgary's oil boom, they say they had as many as a thousand parties every Saturday night. The 15th Winter Olympic Games could be their biggest party yet. I'm glad I've got my invitation."

© David Vine

BIATHLON

Probably the most gruelling of all the skiing events where endurance and concentration are of paramount importance. When a skier has to exert all his energy over a long period of time in extreme cold air conditions, he needs to be super fit. When he stops at the various target ranges en route, he must be able to compose himself quickly as concentration and a steady hand are now needed to take out these targets and maximise his score. The rifle used is a special .22 with sights, with a limited number of bullets allowable and is carried on his shoulder around the complete course. The score is calculated on the elapsed time and shooting score.

DOWN-HILL

This is the fastest of the Alpine Ski Events where competitors ski down a very steep 3km tree lined course, avoiding rocky outcrops and other hazards whilst taking the shortest possible line from Start to Finish. Style is not important but survival and your Finish Time are. Too high a jump or the wrong line around a corner makes the difference between the Gold and nowhere.

SKI-JUMP

Ski jumping turns a skier into a 'Birdman' as he descends the 90 metre run, reaching the take off point - 'Point of No Return' at a speed approaching 70 mph. The ground seems far away as you grapple to control your skies and take maximum advantage of any prevailing wind conditions. Distance is all important but so is your style.

Flying through the air leaning forward to pierce and reduce wind resistance then controlling your skis for that perfect landing.

GIANT SLALOM

As with the other Alpine Ski events, Slalom needs special qualities to gain that coveted Gold. The competitor needs agility and great timing and co-ordination to swing his body through the series of gates. Once the skier attains his rhythm he or she must hold it till the bitter end, as once lost it will prove to be virtually impossible to regain.

The scoring is based on time to complete the Course plus further penalty points for missing gates. The lowest aggregate times determine the Medal standings.

BOB SLED

This sport is the most dangerous of the winter events, where the driver's skill and split second judgement is imperative for his survival as he hurtles down the 1.5 km run.

The bobs today resemble bullets and that is just how they traverse the run at speeds of 90 mph plus not just down the straights but round ice walls where the forces of gravity try and tear your body apart.

The fragile looking crafts have little steering control, even less suspension and next to no brakes. The bob sled team who contend with this are brave athletes whose goal is to shave those precious tenths of a second off their run times.

SPEED SKATING (Not on all formats)

Speed Skating is a sport that both men and women compete in, varying in length from 500 metre sprints to 10,000 metre marathon.

The furious action takes place on an oval laned track of solid, almost polished ice. Speeds of 30 mph are possible to attain with the 500 metre easily completed in around 38 seconds. Medals are determined by the quickest aggregate times.